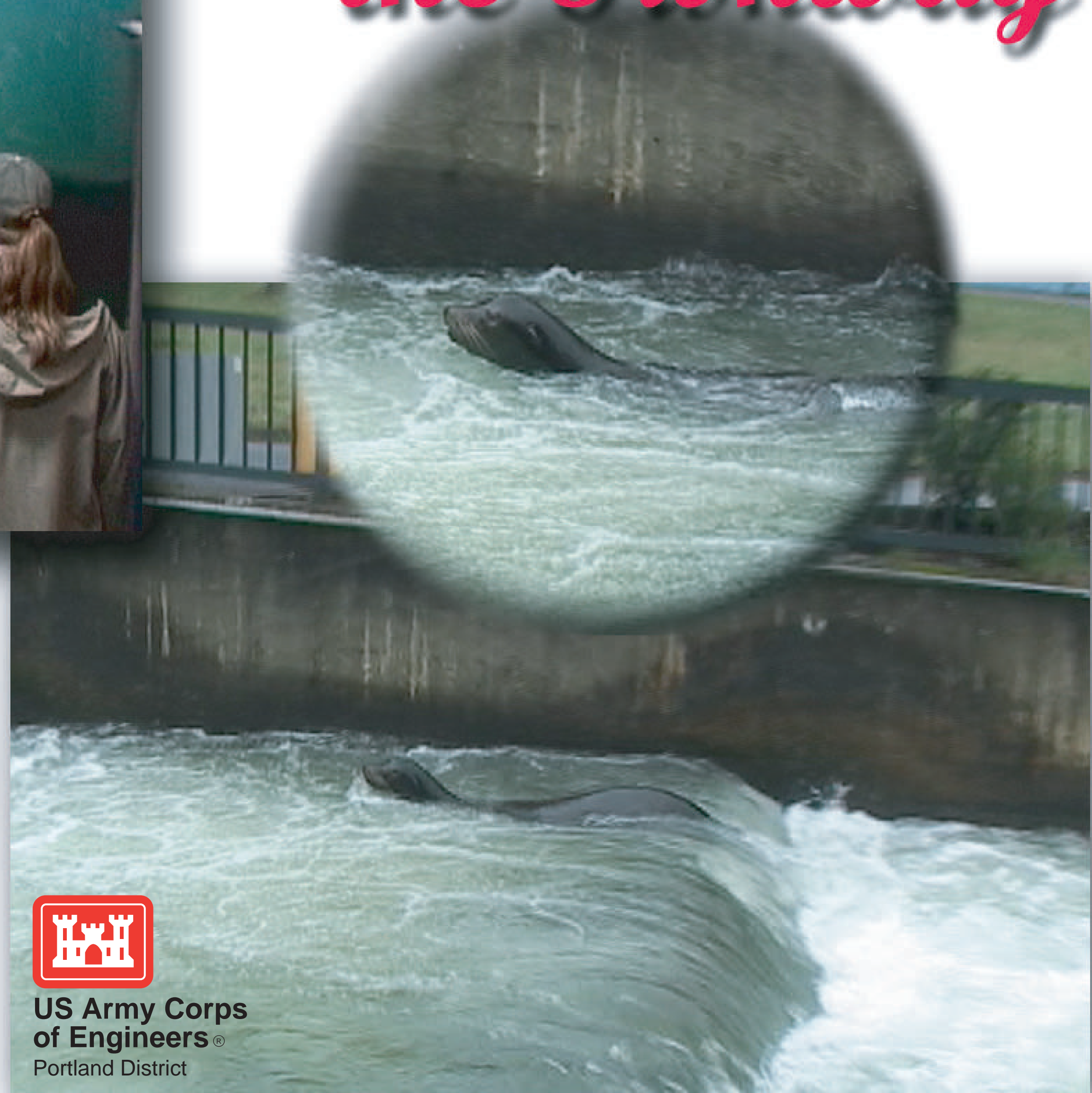




Sea Lions in the Fishway



Sea Lions and Salmon at Bonneville Dam

Sea Lions have been eating salmon in the Columbia River for centuries.

Male sea lions follow the migrating salmon up the Columbia River in the spring.

- n Spring fish runs help sea lions "bulk up" so they are ready for the spring mating season.
- n Sea lions usually depart in late May for the San Miguel Islands in southern California, where the female sea lions are waiting.

Large numbers of sea lions were first seen at Bonneville Dam in 2002.

- n 30 sea lions counted in 2002
- n 106 sea lions counted in 2003
- n 101 sea lions counted in 2004

2004 is the first year that a sea lion learned how to enter the fish ladder, it was only seen in the lower ladder at the Washington shore.

2005 was the first year that a sea lion made it up as far as the viewing windows at both visitor centers at Bonneville Dam.

Sea Lions will eat a percentage of the spring migration:

- They ate: 0.3 percent in 2002
- 1.1 percent in 2003
- 2.1 percent in 2004

The Corps of Engineers is working with NOAA Fisheries and other agencies to find a way to keep sea lions away from the fish ladders so the migrating fish can continue their journey up the Columbia River to spawn.